

She's back . . .



Photo by Roseanne Zarza.

Instrumental teacher Ouisa Forhaltz tunes a violin last week.

Fund-raising recues orchestra, BSO, but about two weeks late

By Kejia Tang

Instrumental teacher Ouisa Forhaltz is back and work and the school's 38-year-old orchestra program is tuning up again, thanks to fervent fundraising by enthusiastic orchestra parents and music lovers. Many new members have been recruited from the younger grades and the Boston Symphony Orchestra, with a strong desire to help rejuvenate the suffering orchestra program, will be coming again to work with students.

As welcoming as all this news is, however, many problems have arisen in the process. Because of the uncertainty of the program's existence at the beginning of the year, many original orchestra students have switched into other classes and subjects. While the school committee voted to continue the

orchestra on September 7, the program was not officially reinstated until two weeks later due to various political and bureaucrat inefficiencies.

By that time, many schedules were already too late to be changed. In an August meeting of orchestra parents and school committee members, school committee chairman Robert Petricca was recorded as saying the school may consider reimbursing the orchestra if it can raise somewhere around \$22,000.

The program right now is funded purely on outside fundraising totaling much more than that amount. A benefit concert featuring advanced music students of Mount Greylock (supportive orchestra and non-orchestra members) is being planned for January.

Williamstown sets Nov. 9 vote on water-line extension; no cost for MGRHS

By Carl Kubler

The timetable for restoring potable water to the water fountains and sinks of Mount Greylock RHS may depend upon the outcome of a Nov. 9 special town meeting attended by Williamstown voters.

At issue is whether the town should authorize construction of a new water line down Cold Spring Road (U.S. Route 7), in a move to replace the school's wells and provide water for two major developments.

The proposed extension would cost between \$3.4 million and \$4.2 million, depending on whether the line is run from Stone Hill or Field Park. Williamstown expects to pay no more than \$875,000 for the project, while Northern Berkshire Health Systems, the parent organization of Sweetwood Continuing Care Retirement Center, would pay at least \$200,000. The Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute would provide not less than \$1.8 million, and the art conservation center not less than \$300,000; Mt. Greylock RHS would make no contribution.

In addition to solving the school's water-contamination problems, the waterline would allow the expansion of Sweetwood and enable the Clark Art Institute to further pursue its Clark Greylock project. Critics of the plan, however, are concerned about property development in the South Williamstown area if the waterline were constructed.

Potential subdivisions include the area between Route 7 and Stone Hill Road, land opposite the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation, and land located south of the routes 43 and 7 intersection known as the Five Corners.

INSIDE:

New Teachers Part II

Meet four more new faculty members, and connect two faces -- two are MGRHS alumni! Page 3

IT'S BEAUTIFUL!

Second workday turnout of 180 volunteers paints, prunes, plants

With a last-minute surge of interest, an estimated 180 parents, students, staff and community members volunteered on Oct. 2 at the second-annual Mount Greylock RHS Workday -- and the results were impressive for all that scraping, painting, weeding and planting.

Outside the building they beautified the school grounds, including painting all of the trim and support beams along the entire front of the building (prep and painting began on Friday afternoon with about 20 volunteers), painting doorways and trim on the north side of the building, painting ceiling and trim at principal's entrance, repairing and staining the recycling shed, remov-

ing dead trees and pruning many trees and shrubs, clearing brush and debris, creating a perennial garden along east side of the greenhouse, planting bulbs along the front driveway, removing litter from around football field and weeding, edging, and adding compost and mulch to our many flower gardens.

Meanwhile, many volunteers devoted their energies to the inside of the building. They repainting walls in middle school hallway, painted trim and doorways in principal's entrance and lobby, painted trim and doorways in auditorium entrance and lobby and along nearby hallways, painted trim in cafeteria and



NEWS/CLUBS

Wanted: New life in the greenhouse -- how about garden club?

By Chirag Patel

The science faculty are looking for suggestions to rejuvenate the school's greenhouse after the retirement in June of Environmental Science teacher Howard Maturski. One idea - plant seeds for a new campus "garden club."

When students returned to school on Sept. 2, one of the noticeable changes was the lack of activity in the greenhouse. Some teachers left classroom plants in the greenhouse over the summer, but various budget and scheduling changes led to classes' no longer use the facility. Additionally, the Williamstown Gar-

dening Club, an organization outside of school, has ceased meeting in the greenhouse.

So far this year, the Special Education department has suggested using the greenhouse as a place where students can develop their reasoning and coordination skills while coping with their disabilities.

So who is taking care of the greenhouse environment? So far, substitute teacher Mr. Weed maintains the temperature and air quality of the greenhouse, along with providing adequate water, and does so without asking for payment.

A roundup by Shan Wang

Amnesty International

All who participated in Amnesty International last year have graduated, and Mr. Murray (Room 55) is currently seeking new members. This organization works to protect human rights of people all over the world. The Mount Greylock chapter was responsible for a school-wide demonstration on AIDS and the tribute to the hundreds of women in Juarez either killed or missing.

SMILE

Students Making an Impact Locally on Everyone is a group of students devoted to providing assistance at community events and fundraising for charitable causes. Recently SMILE has organized a car wash at Colonial Plaza to raise money for gifts for needy children, helped out with Applefest at the Little Red Schoolhouse, and volunteered at Conor's Run. To join the effort, see Mrs. Strizzi in Rm S4.

Junior Classical League

The Junior Classical League, as part of the school's Latin program, will be holding a Classics Day on Oct. 16 starting at 10:30 AM. This event will feature Certamen scrimmages, a statewide catapult contest, and the renowned storyteller Odds Bodkin. The participation fee is \$10; JCL members are admitted for free. See Mrs. Keeley in Room 63 for info.

Future Problem Solving

FPS is a year-long program open to all grades in which teams made up of four students learn a six-step problem solving process. With the process they can then untangle various scenarios set in the future. This year the groups will begin with practice problems on Entertainment and Security/Terrorism. To find out more about FPS, see Mr. Blackman in Room N32.

Film Club

Film Club, a fast-growing organization that has been in unofficial existence for nearly three years but was only recently recognized by the school, is seeking more members since its core group of seniors will be graduating this year. Every Tuesday after school members watch a film of their choice and may engage in discussion. Contact Mrs. Rinehart in Room 68 if you are interested.

College / career center moves to library 2nd floor

Mount Greylock's resource center for college and career information has moved to more spacious quarters on the second level of the school library.

"There is a lot more space and we have a beautiful view, so please stop in for a visit," says Beth Nesbitt, a parent who helps out at the center.

Parent and community volunteers (with parenting, guidance and college admission experience) staff the center from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. each weekday during the "extended period" when Greylock students often have a little free time in their schedule.

The center's literature is open for general browsing whenever the library is open.

Resources include guide books, college viewbooks, catalogs, videos, CDs, and DVDs. Colleges, secondary schools, summer programs, career study, summer study and recreational programs are covered.

The career center was formerly housed next to the guidance office. The move occurred during the summer. For more information about the center, call Martha Elpern at 458-5035 or Nesbitt at 458-3245.



Students rehearse for the upcoming Shakespeare & Company production, Nov. 18-20 at Mount Greylock RHS.

The Greylock Echo

The Mount Greylock Echo is the student newspaper of Mount Greylock Regional High School in Williamstown, Mass. It is published once per month during the academic year. Each issue is developed and edited by a team of editors and writers. Any Mount Greylock student may join the staff, attend meetings and submit articles.

Editors-In-Chief

Carl Kubler, Kejia Tang

News Editors

Rachel Payne, Lucy White

Sports Editor

Pamela Freeman

Business/Advertising Manager

Ashley Boutin

Mount Greylock Echo
Mount Greylock Regional High School

1781 Cold Spring Road
Williamstown MA 01267
(413) 458-9582

all submissions:
echo@newshare.com

Workday

From Page 1

nearby hallway (outside chorus room), washed and painted ceilings in boys' locker room, repaired and painted ceilings in girls' locker room, painted the stage floor, painted in the band room, painted the art gallery door and repaired auditorium seat cushions.

Businesses who contributed to the projects of the day included Williamsotwn Agway, Butler Wholesale, Caligari's Hardware, Carr Hardware, Chenail's Farm Products, Countryside Landscaping, Crescent Creamery, G. Housen (a/k/a Snapple-Brattleboro, VT Division), Greenberg's Lumber, Green River Farms and the Store at Five Corners.

"Hats off to parent Anne Hogeland and Business Manager Marti Mellor for organizing this very successful Community Work Day," said Supt. Mark Piechota. "With their leadership, the contributions of these businesses, and the efforts of volunteers the school has never looked so good. Our school mission is to help our students learn to be responsible citizens, and one important



component of citizenship is the willingness to contribute to the common good. These businesses and volunteers not only beautified our school but they modeled citizenship for our students."

Auction and hop set for Oct. 30 at Botsford House

The Mount Greylock PTO's first big fund-raising event will be a rocking Halloween Hop dance party on Saturday, Oct. 30 at 8 p.m. at the former Williamstown Library -- the Botsford House, now a private residence -- at 762 Main Street. The dance, including a no-alcohol cash bar, and lots of food, will include a regular auction, as well.

A professional DJ, courtesy of Marianne McDonough, is included.

"Lots of parents have donated wonderful items," says Lisa Hiley, one of the PTO organizers. "They range from professional services like massages, medical consultations, custom painting of a room or piece of furniture, to social events such as dinner for two in your home, an ice-skating party, scrapbooking evening and a weekend at a lake cottage, to talents you might not have -- sewing, writing and editing and fabulous baked goods delivered to your door."

Students and parents alike are invited to come in formal attire, or costume, or PJs or sweats -- anything but regular clothes. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. They are available from Where'd You Get That!?, Tupelo Honey Market and Wild Oats Community Market in Williamstown and at Country Tack in Lanesborough.

Donations to defray costs are sought. For information, call Hiley at 458-3077 or email lisahiley@adelphia.net.

NEW TEACHERS -- Part 2

Two MGRHS grads return: Yankees 1, Sox 1, Phillies 1

EDITORS' NOTE -- This is the second of a two-part series on new teachers hired this fall at Mount Greylock.

By Lucy White

The following questions were asked to all of the teachers who were interviewed:

- 1) What is your reaction to Mount Greylock?
- 2) Do you have a personal quote?
- 3) What is your favorite style of music?
- 4) Why are you teaching?
- 5) What is your favorite city in the world and why?
- 6) Who's philosophy do you agree with more: Locke's (man is born good and is then corrupted by society) or Hobbes's (in his natural state, man is cruel and beast-like, he must be restrained by society)?
- 7) Hypothetical situation: You are left alone in a cabin for two weeks with all of the necessities for living, (food, water, etc.) What do you bring to keep yourself from going insane?
- 8) PC or Mac? Kerry or Bush? Yankees or Red Sox?

Ginger Sumner teaches Art to middle schoolers and Intro to Studio Art 1 and 2. She went to Brooklyn College and Feris State University in Michigan. She previously taught at SABIS International Charter School in Springfield, Massachusetts where she taught Art in grades 6-12, AP Art, and fashion.

These are her responses to the Echo's questions:

- 1) There are positives and negatives about every school. I like to think of the positive aspects, and work on the negative ones.
- 2) If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. -- unknown
- 3) Jazz
- 4) My passion for the arts, my joy in helping a student reach their personal best, and seeing the results of beautiful artwork.
- 5) New York City, without question - its art, museums, and theater. It is a

constant visual stimulation and inspiration.

- 6) Locke, I'm a glass-half-filled sort of person.
- 7) Books, art and writing materials.
- 8) PC, Kerry, Yankees.



Christine Morrissey, left, and Ginger Sumner, two of four new teachers profiled on this page.

Megan Jennings is the newest addition to the staff. She teaches Spanish 2 and 3. Ms. Jennings went to Mount Greylock, then to Wheaton College, outside of Boston. Before taking a teaching job here she was a meeting planner for the Unitarian Universalist Association in Boston.

These are her responses:

- 1) It is good to be back and to see many familiar faces.
- 2) Life does not put things in front of you that you are unable to handle. -- Unknown.
- 3) Country music.
- 4) I teach Spanish because I love the language and I love the idea of passing the language skills on to my students.
- 5) Brugge, Belgium.
- 7) Books, knitting, a jump rope (for exercise) and my dog.
- 8) Mac, Kerry, Red Sox.

Christine Morrissey is a new English teacher who has Honors students at Mount Greylock. It might be hard to find her at this point in the school year because she does not have a classroom. She uses other teachers' rooms each period.



who are in stuffy suits!

- 5) My favorite cities: London, New York City and any beach town
- 6) I would have to go with Locke - I like to think I am somewhat optimistic.
- 7) I would bring my cat, Lulu Jean!
- 8) Bush, and she is neither a Red Sox nor a Yankees fan, but rather a Phillies fan.

Catherine Demick teaches middle-school French and French 5. She went to Drew University in Madison N.J. for her undergraduate degree and was teaching at Searles Middle in Great Barrington before coming to Mt. Greylock. If she could do one thing every day for the rest of her life it would be to brush her horse.

These are her responses to the questions:

- 1) I love Greylock so far . . . close to home, great students and faculty and beautiful views.
- 2) My personal quote goes something like "Life is a one-time deal. I don't intend to come to the end with myself quietly preserved but rather skidding across the finish line exclaiming it was one heck of a ride!" She also loves Winston Churchill's quote, "There's something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man."
- 3) I listen to all kinds of music except opera and classical . . . I like anything from rock to country to jazz. The best concerts I ever attended were Dire Straits in Albany, ZZ Top at Red Rocks in Colorado, The Eagles at the Meadowlands and Santana at SPAC . . . but I will admit I also used to love the BeeGees!! O.K. I grew up in the disco era, what can I say!
- 4) I teach because I love interacting with people and I find languages fascinating. I believe it is so important for us to appreciate other cultures.
- 5) My favorite city is Dublin, Ireland. I lived outside of Dublin for two years and would move back in a heartbeat.
- 6) I believe more in Locke's philosophy because how could anyone believe there is corruption in a newborn? Until that child has been exposed to evils in society, I can't believe there is evil within.
- 7) If I could bring anything with me to the cabin it would be a horse.
- 8) PC, Kerry, and sorry but I couldn't care less about baseball.

OPINION

A scheduling suggestion -- the four-period block plan

By Emily Cohane-Mann

Scheduling one's life, inside of school and out, could easily be labeled as a nightmare. At least, I think it could, and I think it's safe to assume that 98% of students, teachers and school guidance counselors would agree with me. School schedules are different everywhere you go. In some schools, there are seven periods a day. Others have four or five periods. Get this: in some schools, the periods even rotate (I thought that was pretty weird when I heard it for the first time).

Every school has its own system, and everyone has an opinion of exactly what the best way to schedule a school day is. I'll take the time to introduce one of those possible schedules in this article. At Thomas Pyle Middle School in Bethesda, Md., (a school I attended for two years)

students have a block schedule with only four periods a day. There are only two kinds of days: "A" days, and "B" days. They have seven periods total, and they see their first period teacher every day, for approximately half the time they have in their other blocks. Classes are 90 minutes long; passing time is six. Break, called "interact," is a generous 15 minutes.

One of the benefits of this schedule is longer classes. Teachers can take their time when students need more explanation. You can really get into that book discussion in English, and you don't have to worry about the bell ringing in the middle of someone's presentation. The labs in science can be much more in-depth; you can add another variable or take more time to compare the results

with the control.

Another obvious plus to this schedule is one that will be a dead-ringer for many busy students. You have two days to do all your homework. Say you have a game directly followed by dinner in the car on the way to a three-hour choir practice. When are you going to do your homework? With the current schedule, the sadly most preferable option is either at 11:30 p.m., or at about 5:30 a.m. However, if we were to substitute our current system with block scheduling, we would be able to get around those instances in which we are just plain overbooked.

Though classes are longer and therefore may seem more intense, the block schedule adds to a relaxed atmosphere in which students are

rarely late, are engaged in class, and are generally well behaved. A schedule like this might be a good step for Mount Greylock. Numerically, you cut total daily passing time by one third, double the time for planned lessons and, yes, almost double the break time.

For a school that seems perfectly used to changing schedules, maybe this schedule would be a good thing to try for a year or two. It seems that right as you would be getting into a class, the bell rings and you're off to another subject. With periods like this, there is no way to gain a thorough understanding of your classes. I would hope that the block schedule would at least be considered as an option for Greylock, and I'm sure that everyone would like the idea of that 15-minute break.

Coaches satisfied so far with fall team performances

By Pamela Freeman
Echo Sports Editor

This fall, Greylock housed the usual four teams of football, cheerleading, soccer and cross-country running with the new addition of volleyball. None of these sports seasons are completed yet, and many are exactly mid-way through their season. All the coaches of each sport are extremely satisfied with the progress their athletes are making, and willingly agreed to give a moment of their time to talk about their sport.

VOLLEYBALL

The newest sport volleyball, led by Coach Paul, had an extremely good start to their first season ever. With a passion for the game, all the young women on the team played well and were consistent in putting forth their best effort. Coach Paul was particularly pleased with their performance this year. "Being a first year team, the girls improved from week to week very positively. We're very happy with the outcome of the season so far, though we haven't won a match, we've improved greatly." Coach Paul also said one of his favorite things about coaching was: "I like watching the improvement of players from the beginning of the season to the end."

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

Greylock's Men and Women's Cross-Country teams are having another great year, which is no surprise because each team sets high standards for themselves, which they always meet. Women's Cross-Country has been doing admirably, with Coach Bell directing them. When asked what was different about his team this year from past years, Coach Bell replied jokingly, "We're getting younger and younger; we're sponsored by Pampers now." He has good predictions for the rest of the season: "If we can stay healthy and away from getting sick, we can win the league and our goal is to be in the top three at Western Mass." Coach Bell's favorite two things about coaching are: "Working with the kids who want to be involved, and getting exercise at the end of the day because getting paid to run is cool."

Men's Cross-Country, coached by Mr. Burdick, has been doing exceptionally well, following the pattern of past years. Coach Burdick says that his team is not different at all from any other year: "I always get very motivated, intelligent runners who always want to do their best. The only difference is they're the fastest and possibly more talented. Really a typical Greylock team. They do all the little things right to win championships. Now we're 7-0 undefeated, and we won last year; that's not just by accident. The record is 30-3 since I've been coaching this team." His predictions for the second half of the season are also very positive like Coach Bell's. "[We'll] win the county, and have numerous runners picked for the all-league team. We're



Calendar fun

Rob White, left, makes a donation to the MGRHS boys' soccer team calendar raffle at a table manned by, from left, Henry Sauve, Tim Russell and Colin O'Neill outside the Willimastown Post Office on Saturday. The fund-raising goal is \$3,500.

definitely going to States this year in November." Coach Burdick is extremely pleased with his team's progress this year and says his favorite things about coaching are: "The kids that I'm coaching, and the kids that I'm coaching. If they weren't great kids I'd have better things to do with my time." The rest of their season is still to come, but great performances are guaranteed from each of the runners on the team.

SOCCER

Women and Men's soccer has also had a great season so far. Coaches are very satisfied with their team's execution of the game. This was Coach Miro's first time coaching Women's soccer and he feels it's been a very positive experience for him. "[For the rest of the season], hopefully the girls will become better players,

and understand the importance of conditioning both physically and mentally. I think if we play well we should win our share of games." Both women's junior-varsity and varsity teams have many strong players, which is apparent when watching them play. Coach Miro's favorite two things about coaching are: "Being with the kids and developing friendships and watching them improve as individuals and as a team. They become better team players."

Mr. Dils is the coach for Men's soccer, and said it's been a really exciting season so far. The differences in the team this year from past years is "We're a little less experienced. Some guys who instead of getting to spend time on Varsity as a reserve, go to JV . . . [also] there's not a lot of senior starters." His predictions for the rest of the season: "My hope is that we'll improve every game because we're so in-experienced . . . so hopefully this team will peak in the first few games of the season." The men's soccer team has played many great games so far, and hopefully they'll continue to do well. Mr. Dils's favorite things about coaching are: "The preparation and practicing, getting a team to play a particular style . . . what I look forward to and I love is the camaraderie of a soccer team."

CHEERLEADING

This year, to the surprise of many, Greylock produced a substantial group of young women for the cheerleading team. Last year, as many people know, the cheerleading team suffered a great loss of girls from the prior year, so it was difficult to achieve anything. This year however, there is a total of nine girls and the team is stronger than ever. Coach Lindsay Tompson, who is the former captain of two years ago, is very pleased with the progress of her squad. "[This year,] we're more diverse in age and the girls seem very dedicated." Lindsay thinks the season has been going very well, and the girls are "making steady progress with each game." Coach Tompson's favorite two things about coaching are: "I like to teach and I like to be able to give something back to the squad I was a part of for such a long time." The Greylock cheerleaders have been doing very well, alongside their football team.

FOOTBALL

Greylock's football team has had a good season so far, with a 2-3 record. Coach Gill and Coach Flaherty are happy with their team's effort, and hope that the team continues to have a strong offensive and defensive performance. Coach Gill says that the team is different from other years because: "We are more explosive defensively, we can make big plays." His predictions for the rest of the season are very optimistic. "By the end of the season, we'll be playing our best football." Coach Gill's favorite things about coaching football are "competition and relationships with kids."

Concert at 3,491 --
first all-school
climb? . . .



MGRHS eight-graders were serenaded by teacher Pat Blackman on Oct. 7 when about 130 students hiked almost 1,000 feet up to the top of Mount Greylock. Seventh-graders made the trek on Oct. 4. English teacher Liza Barrett said it was the first such organized grade-wide hike up Mount Greylock in the middle-school's history. Even atop the 3,491-foot peak sunny temperatures reached close to 60 degrees F.